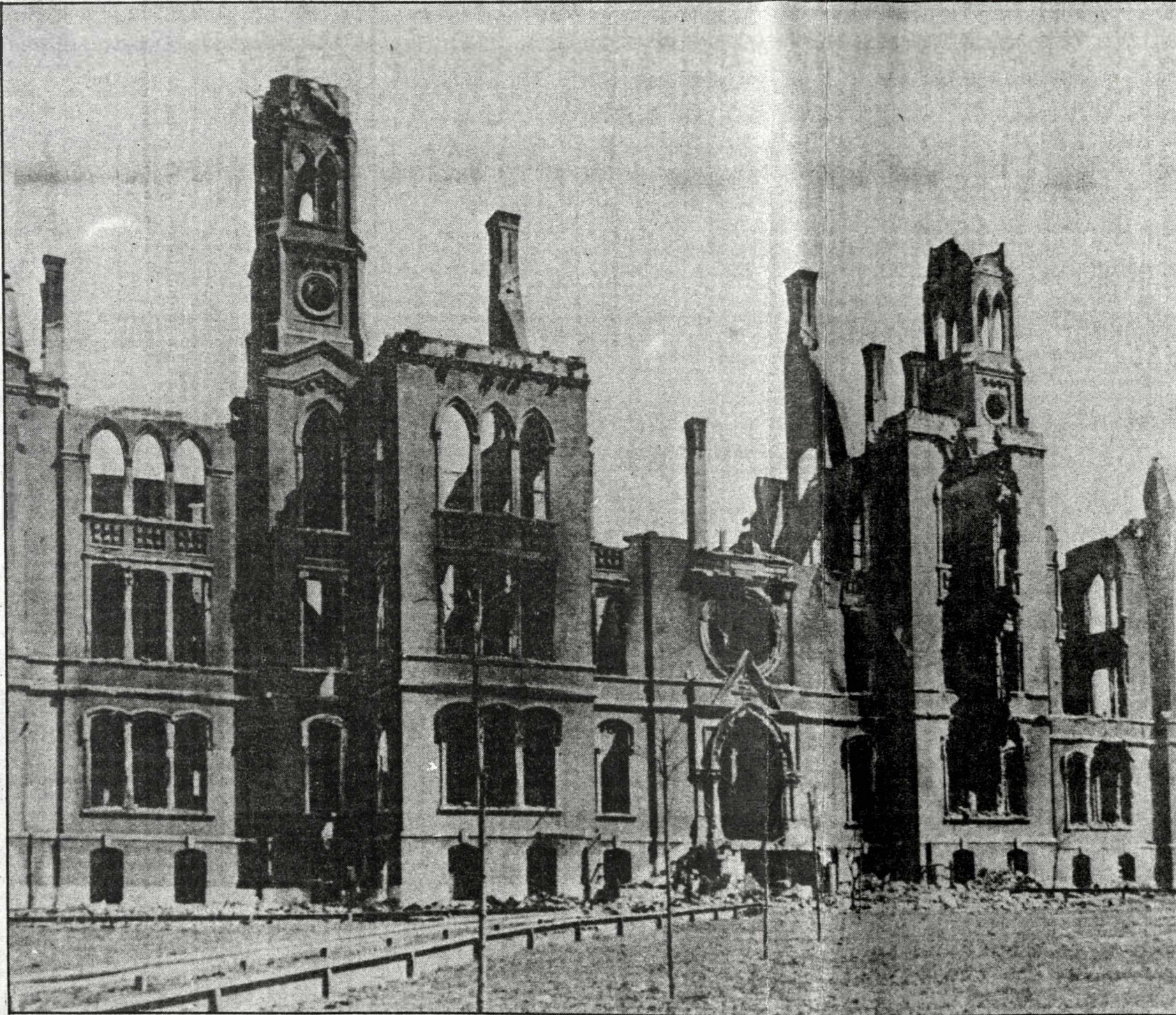


G

Section

Community Focus

The Tribune-Star

Inside this section...Valley datebook.. G2 Dorothy Clark..... G3
Genealogy..... G3 Focus..... G4

Aftermath: "The most unfortunate single catastrophe that could happen to Terre Haute occurred this morning," is the way a Terre Haute Evening Gazette reporter described the April 9, 1888, fire which gutted the Indiana State Normal School Building (left) located between Mulberry and Eagle streets on north Sixth Street.

Memories of fire and rain

ISU observes centennial of great Normal School fire

By Herbert Rissler
Chairperson, ISU History Dept.

On a rainy, windy morning in the early spring of 1888, 100 years ago Saturday, the most staggering blow ever to hit the Indiana State Normal School occurred.

Exhibit has
artifacts of
1888 fire



On a rainy, windy morning in the early spring of 1888, 100 years ago Saturday, the most staggering blow ever to hit the Indiana State Normal School occurred.

At approximately 8:30 a.m., just after chapel exercises and the beginning of the first recitation hour, smoke began pouring from the roof of the Normal School building. Alarms were sounded and three horse-drawn fire wagons — including two hose companies and a chemical engine company from the Terre Haute Fire Department — were shortly on the scene.

Failing to gain quick access to the attic where a defective flue had probably set the dry timbers afire, firemen were unable to contain the raging flames. By 9:30 it was too late to halt the fire. The entire building was ablaze and threatening the residential areas along Eagle and Mulberry streets which bounded the building on the north and south.

A reporter from the Terre Haute Gazette described the scene as a "glorious spectacle."

"The stately edifice," he wrote, "never looked so beautiful as it did with a halo of flame about its lordly crest."

Approximately 625 Normal School students and faculty and another 125 associated with the "training school" (elementary) were quickly evacuated without casualty. However, all that remained was a bare and blackened ruin. Destroyed were a library of about 2,000 volumes, all interior furnishings, science equipment and the assorted papers and works of the faculty. Only a few books and several microscopes were saved.

Helen Gilbert, the president's secretary, had the foresight to grab the volume containing the only copy of the Board of Trustees' minutes from 1866 to 1888.

While the ashes still smoldered, President William Wood Parsons, who headed the institution from 1885 to 1921, immediately took charge. Determined that the educational program must continue without interruption, Parsons moved with astonishing dispatch in concert with Terre Haute schools, churches, local businessmen and government officials.

The nearby Centenary Methodist Church became the temporary administrative center and numerous local churches and businesses provided classroom and office space. The Terre Haute High School (Wiley) made its second floor available for more than a year while a new building was under construction. Fortunately, the high school had moved out of the Normal School building only the year before to occupy its own new building at Seventh and Walnut streets.

☆☆☆

Without missing a beat, the Normal School opened for business the following morning. President Parsons, in one of his finest hours, sent representatives to the local railroad stations to prevent students from departing town.

In a memorable chapel address that morning, he proclaimed that "the Normal School and the Normal building are two separate things. Our building is in ashes, our library, laboratory and apparatus are all gone, but the school and all essential to it is here this morning. This is a splendid opportunity to teach the world

Exhibit has artifacts of 1888 fire

An exhibit from the collections of the Indiana State University Archives commemorating the centennial of State Normal School fire opens Friday in the Heritage Lounge, Tirey Memorial Union.

The exhibit, entitled "From the Ashes: Heart... Spirit... Opportunity," features photographs, architectural drawings and newspaper reports as well as some artifacts related to the April 9, 1888 fire that destroyed the State Normal School. It continues through May 8, and is open to the public free of charge.

Because numerous University functions take place in the room, it is advisable to call the TMU information desk, 237-3999 for viewing times.

that the school is not in its library and building. The Normal School is in existence this morning and we are ready to go to work. I am sure the world will forgive the loss of yesterday but not today, and we must go on as before."

The building that burned on that morning of April 9, 1888, had opened as Indiana's first teacher training institution in 1870. In 1867, the State had accepted a gift of \$50,000 and real estate (the old County Seminary site) offered by the City of Terre Haute.

The cornerstone for the new building, which occupied the west half of the present campus quadrangle, was laid the following year. Josse A. Vrydagh, a Terre Haute resident, was the architect. His creation was an imposing four-floor structure (including basement) adorned with small-paned Gothic windows and two turrets (ventilating minarets) projecting upward from a mass of spires and gables. Original plans for the building included a gymnasium (first floor), a museum (third floor) and an elaborate central heating plant, but none of these somewhat "luxurious" features ever materialized.

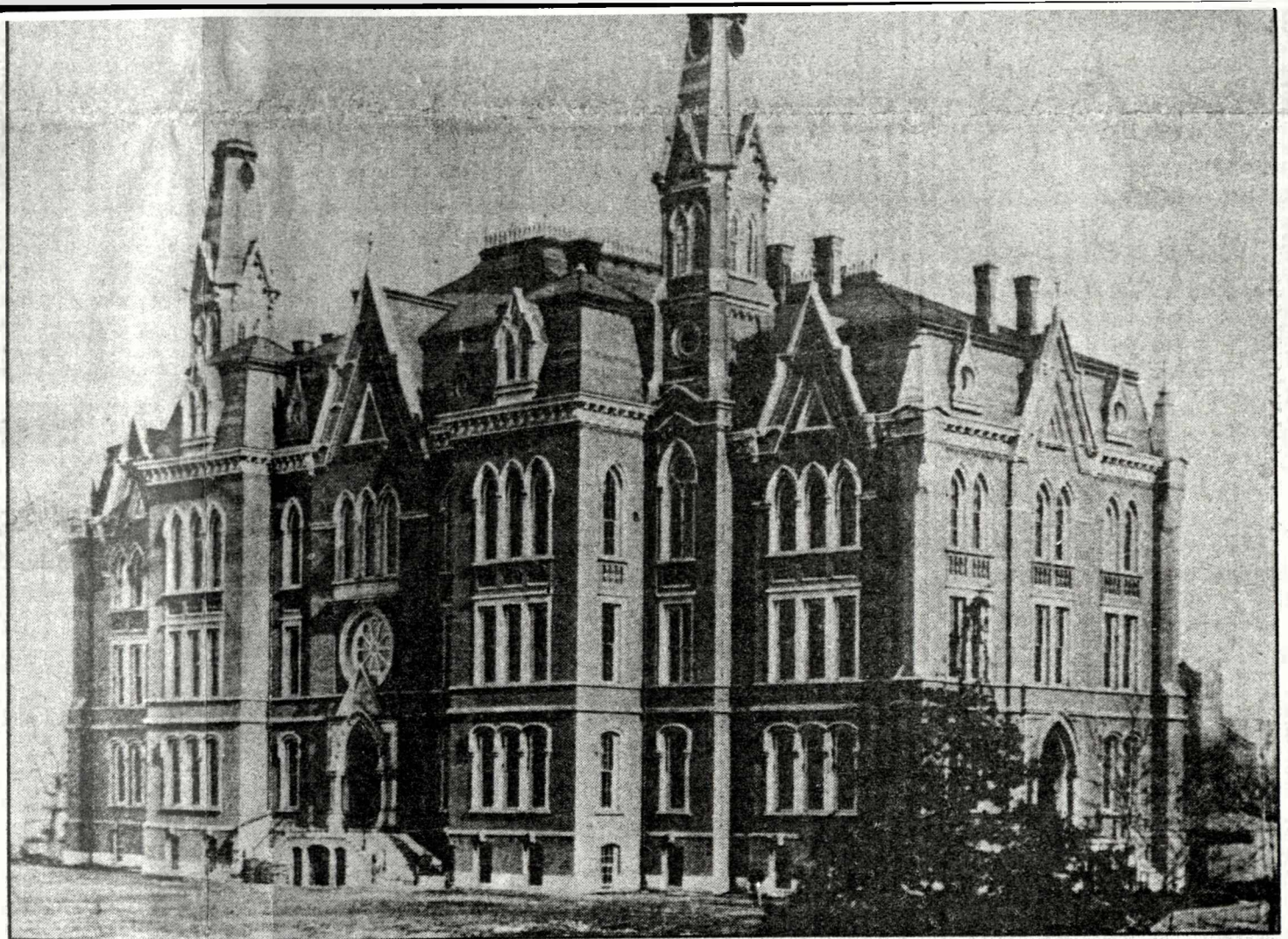
The State moved slowly in its funding, so the interior of the building was finished only a few months before its destruction. The building stood for most of its existence amid a rubble of sand, broken stone and debris with a few worn foot-paths leading from Sixth Street to the front door.

☆☆☆

The strong and continuing support of the Terre Haute community in those difficult early years was crucial to the survival of the fledgling Normal School.

Chauncey Rose, one of Indiana's wealthiest men and a most generous philanthropist, provided the first and only early library support for the institution, which, we are told, began its existence with only a Bible and a dictionary.

William Riley McKeen, one of Terre Haute's most successful bankers and railroad owners, served as treasurer of the ISN Board of Trustees for several



Before the fire: This 1870 photo shows the imposing building that welcomed the institution's first 21 students on Jan. 6 of that year. The students began their studies in classrooms heated by stoves.

decades during which time he bailed the school out on numerous occasions by extending temporary loans when State funds were not forthcoming.

And many other prominent citizens recognized the importance of the institution to Terre Haute's future growth and development and did what they could to help sustain it during those trying years.

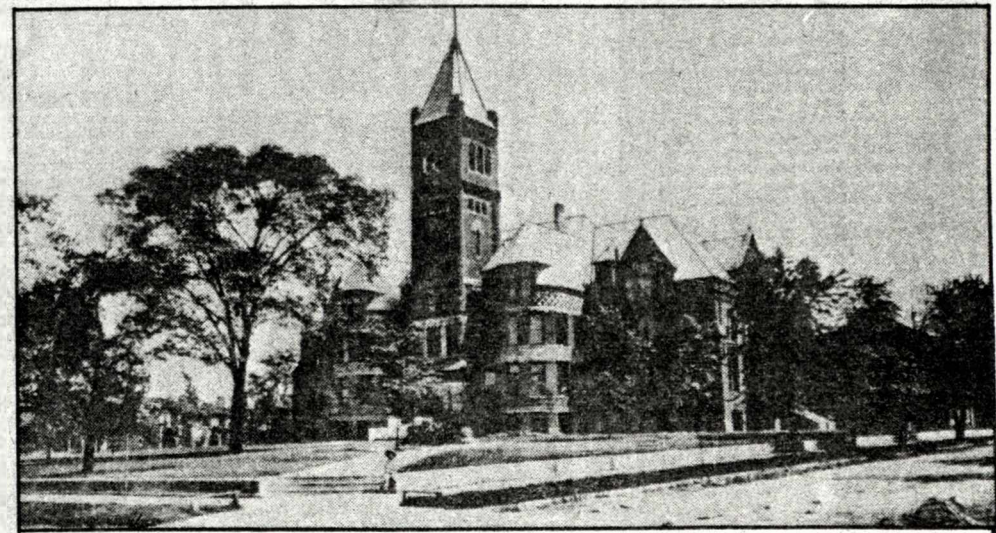
The original 1865 legislation creating a State Normal School provided that the City of Terre Haute should pay one-half of the costs required to "forever maintain" the building and grounds.

Unfortunately, the obligation, which placed a disproportionate burden on the city, led to a City Council decision in 1885 to drop its share of the insurance on the building. Subsequently, the ISN Board of Trustees followed suit by allowing its insurance premiums to lapse.

As a consequence, there was no insurance coverage to replace the \$225,000 loss resulting from the "Fire of '88." Despite these regrettable decisions, the Terre Haute community once again gave evidence of its confidence in the Normal School by pledging another \$50,000 toward a new building.

☆☆☆

The Board of Trustees, after due deliberation, decided to rebuild, using the foundations and some of the old building's exterior walls which remained standing. The Chicago firm of Jenny and Otis was awarded the architectural contract. Three years earlier, William LeBaron Jenny planned Chicago's 10-story Home



"Old Main:" This building was built in 1889 on the foundations and walls that remained after Normal School burned. It stood until it was razed in 1950.

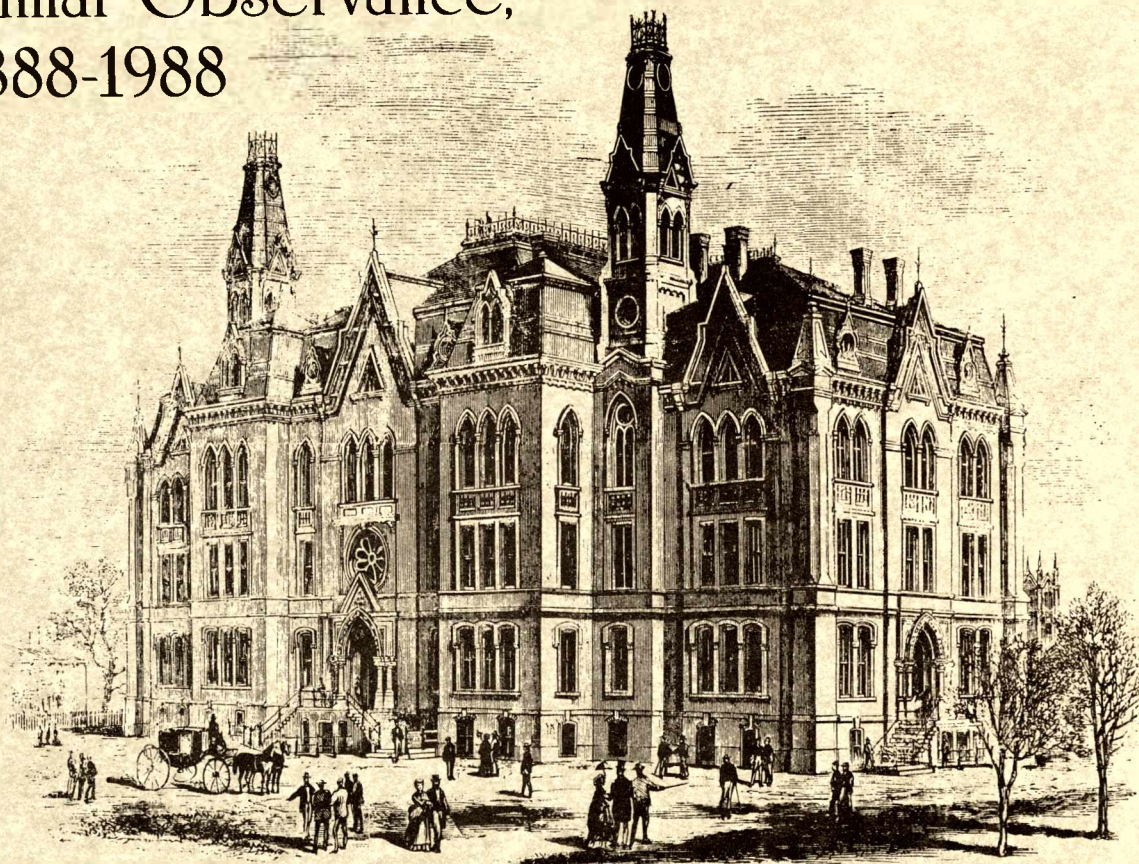
Insurance Building, the nation's first skyscraper, using cast-iron columns and wrought-iron beams.

The result was "Old Main" (1889-1950), the heart of the Normal School and later the Indiana State Teachers College for more than 60 years. Its style was a strange mixture of architectural forms. It had round-headed, inset Italianate windows, a French mansard roof with flat-gabled dormer windows and bulging Norman bays that flanked the heavy

stone doorway, over which rose a high Romanesque tower. The imposing dark red brick "citadel" was probably the most unique structure ever built on the Indiana State campus.

In time, the cavernous old building with her considerable esthetic charm came to be viewed as a liability. Sadly, no voices were raised in support of her preservation and she was razed in 1950, 15 years before the institution became Indiana State University.

Indiana State Normal School Fire Centennial Observance, 1888-1988



THE INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING, AT TERRE HAUTE.

THE building has a frontage of 185 feet to a depth of 115 feet. The plan is irregular in form, although balanced in two equal parts. It is composed of a basement, 11 feet in the clear, and three stories, 16 feet in the clear each, except the lecture-room, museum and library in the third story, which are 22 feet in the clear.

The basement floor is only three feet below the surface of the ground, and affords clear rooms for a gymnasium, 60 x 70 feet, a lecture-room on chemistry, 22 x 30 feet, a laboratory, 20 x 22 feet 6 inches, play-rooms for primary pupils, janitor-rooms, water-closet and urinals, and all the necessary fuel and heating apparatus rooms. A long hall, running north and south, gives access to these various rooms. The entrance to the basement is effected through five doors from the exterior, and it is connected with the upper stories by means of four stairs.

A double flight of limestone steps to the west gives access to the front hall, 14 feet in width, and from this is entered the reception-room, 17 x 20 feet, and the secretary's room, 17 x 20 feet. A double flight of stairs display

to the right and to the left, conducting to the second story. This front hall intersects the long hall. The latter is entered from the south and from the north ends by double flights of limestone steps. These three entrances to the building are closed with heavy night-doors, and fly-doors in daytime.

At the intersection of the halls, and east of the long hall, are the high school session-room, 60 x 70 feet; the two main stairs from basement upward to the third story; the two reference libraries, 13 x 13 feet, and four recitation-rooms, 20 x 22 feet 6 inches each. To the west of the long hall, north end, are the intermediate school-rooms, 22 feet 6 inches by 30 feet and 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet; and to the south end are the primary school-rooms, 22 feet 6 inches by 30 feet and 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet, and four dress-rooms, all accessible from the long hall.

The second story is particularly devoted to the Normal School Department, and is reached by four large and commodious flights of stairs. The assembly-room is 60 x 70 feet, and the eight recitation-rooms vary from 20 x 22 feet 6 inches to 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet, with two

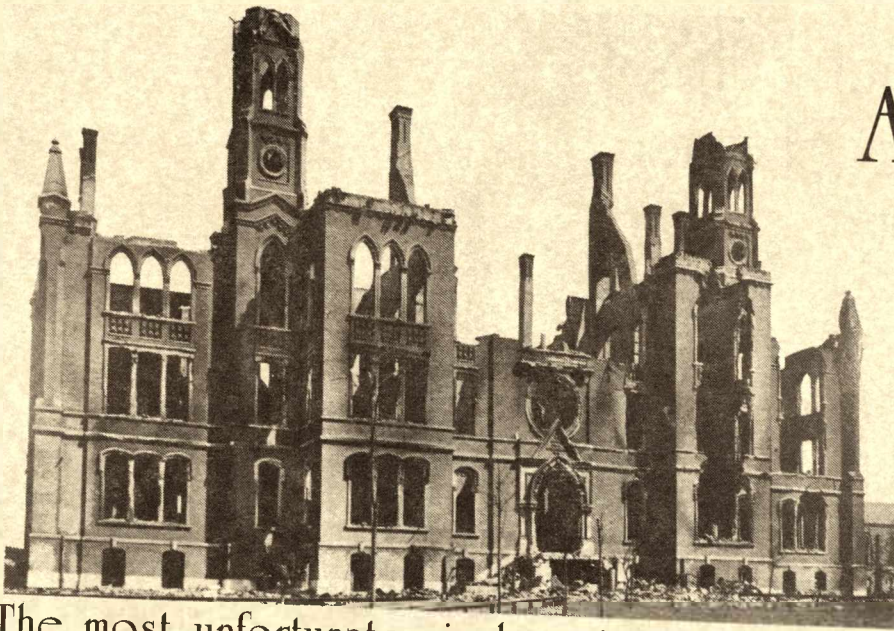
reference libraries, and all dress-rooms necessary for pupils and teachers. In this story the central wheel window of the front throws a flood of light of the most agreeable effect.

The third story is grand in combination; a lecture-room, 70 x 85 feet, and three rooms, from 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet to 22 feet 6 inches by 50 feet, arranged for museum and library, may be thrown open into one vast assembly-room when occasion will require it. This story has, besides, two society halls, 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet, and music halls, 22 x 30 feet.

The towers and minarets which ornament the appearance are all ventilating shafts. The building is temporarily heated with stoves, but has been arranged for low-pressure steam apparatus. The entire cost of the edifice, closets, heating apparatus, furniture of the most approved design, and one thousand feet of substantial wrought-iron and limestone fence, is \$230,000. The style of the building, as the picture (from a photograph) shows, is imposing and bold. The State of Indiana has, without a doubt, surpassed all other States of the Union in the institutions of the kind.

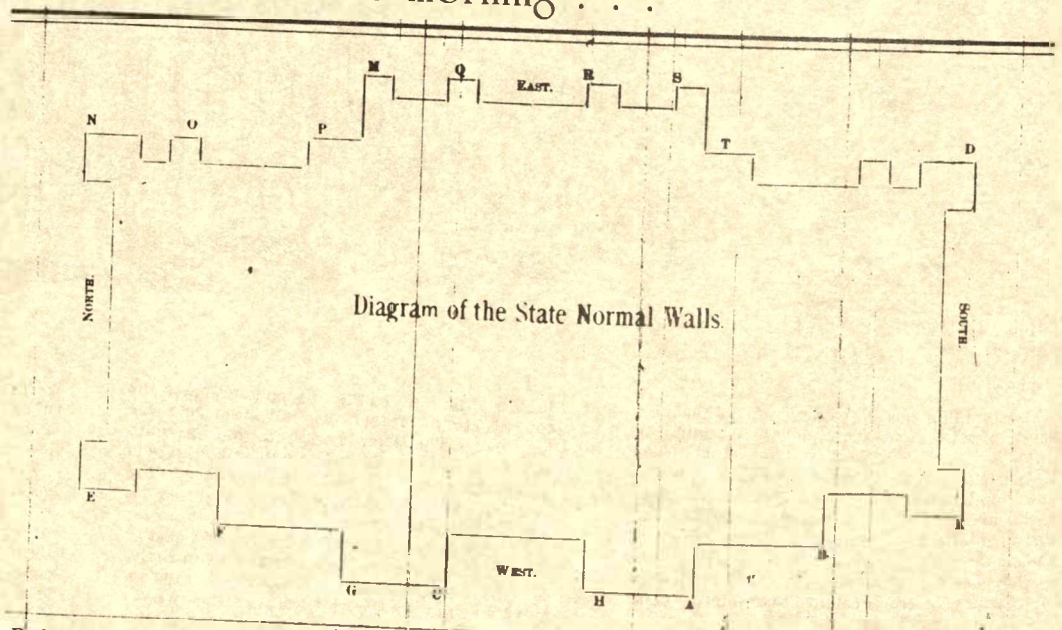
FRANK LESLIE'S
ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER
January 5, 1870 pp. 357-358

Exhibit-Heritage Lounge, Tirey Memorial Union,
April 8-May 8, 1988



April 9, 1888

The most unfortunate single catastrophe that could happen to Terre Haute occurred this morning . . .



Professors Cobb, Howe and Mees, of the Rose Polytechnic, made a careful examination of the ruins and formulated the following report, with accompanying ground plan as above represented, which President T. C. Mendenhall read before the citizens' committee yesterday afternoon:

TERRE HAUTE, April 10.

The following remarks refer to foundation brick work and horizontal water tables, unless otherwise specified:

WEST FRONT—From *x* to *g*: on ideal sketch, all good to third floor. Some small but not dangerous cracks in brick wall diverge from the basement windows. Stone foundation facing in rear of corner *g* is scaled so as to impair appearance, but not strength. This is the only place about the building where such injury has occurred in foundation facing.

Brick work in general about front door, *h* to *n*, servicable to second floor. From *n* to *k* there is nothing above foundation.

Corner *n* good to third floor.

Corner *h* good to second floor.

Corner *n* good to third floor.

Corners *n* to *k* all good.

On west front sections containing win-

dows are either gone or will have to be removed.

SOUTH SIDE—Good to third floor.

EAST SIDE—Triple corners *r* and *d* will have to be removed to foundation; otherwise, with exception of the gable, all is good.

NORTH SIDE—Good throughout. A few cracks not considered dangerous.

The interior walls, owing to danger of approach and heat, could not be closely inspected, appear to be badly crumbled, but on the whole servicable to the second floor, the most serious injury having resulted from the breaking out of floor beams.

There remains no servicable stone-work except horizontal water tables on west front. The same is partially true of north and south fronts. The east or back of the building is substantially unimpaired except as above noted. Foundations throughout, except slight scaling, somewhat impairing appearance, are perfectly sound and good. Of the material in the ruins, such as brick and iron pillars, much may be utilized.

The opinion of the examiners is that the ruins are perfectly safe and good for rebuilding as far as the second story. Some walls and corners may even be utilized to the third story, and that in

cases of rebuilding a saving of at least \$31,000 can be effected by the utilization of old walls and materials.

E. J. COBB,
MALVERD A. HOWE,
C. LEO MEES.

The report is accompanied by a table showing the unsafe and leaning walls. The corner at *A* is the only one more than an inch and a half out of line. It leans 6 1/4 inches to the west and 5 inches south. This is dangerous and is expected to fall at any time. There is a wedge of brick against it at the third floor and the report says when this is removed the wall will probably return to a vertical position. Almost every wall and corner is vertical. These measurements were very accurately taken with instruments from the Polytechnic.

This was a much better showing than anticipated, although Architect Vrydagh's estimate led everyone to expect a good deal. The meeting was very favorably impressed, as the professors are known to be experts in the line. Architect Vrydagh made his estimate from a hasty tour of the standing walls, but will as soon as possible make a careful examination of every part of the building remaining.

THE NORMAL BOARD.

It Discusses the Plans For the New Building--Architect Jenney's Plans.

The State Normal Board was in session yesterday afternoon with all the members present. State Superintendent Harvey M. La Follette arrived on the 12:30 train from the north and was present at the meeting. The plans submitted by architects Jenney & Otis, of Chicago, Gaddis, of Vincennes, and Vrydagh & Son, of this city, were considered but no action was taken.

Mr. Jenney explained that his plans were entirely preliminary and although his front elevation made a very pretty appearance it was not consistent with the plans for the inside. The same may be said of the other architect's designs. Mr. Gaddis did not present a plan for the front elevation as he had not time to prepare it. All three plans for the inside were materially the same. Mr. Jenney's plans showed a wide departure from the original design of the building and the light, airy appearance of the former building was changed into a heavy, massive looking structure.

From the main entrance on the west side runs a heavy tower straight up the front of the building. The L's to either side of this are extended eight feet further west and made round instead of square as before. The half circular form is retained to the top of the building and the roof built in that form. The plan shows the building highest in the centre and gradually dropping off toward the ends. A description of Mr. Vrydagh's plans was printed in yesterday's issue of the *Gazette*.

It was the opinion of the members of the board that it would not be well to adopt any of the plans submitted, as all of them will have to be changed considerably, but rather to use the plans presented to assist them in deciding on which architect could most ably do the work.

Murray Briggs, president of the board, and W. W. Parsons, president of the school, were appointed by the board to go to Indianapolis one day this week to confer with Governor Gray and the state officials in regard to a guarantee of an appropriation from the Legislature. The city council has acted wisely in acknowledging the city's obligation to pay half of the cost of repairing the building and in appropriating \$25,000 for immediate use toward its rebuilding. With this very fair assurance from the city Messrs. Briggs and Parsons will no doubt be able to accomplish their purpose with the Governor and state officers.

Terre Haute Evening Gazette
April 18, 1888

Exhibit and Brochure
prepared by:

THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

"Old Main," 1889

Indiana State Normal School
Fire Centennial Observance,
1888-1988



April 9, 1888

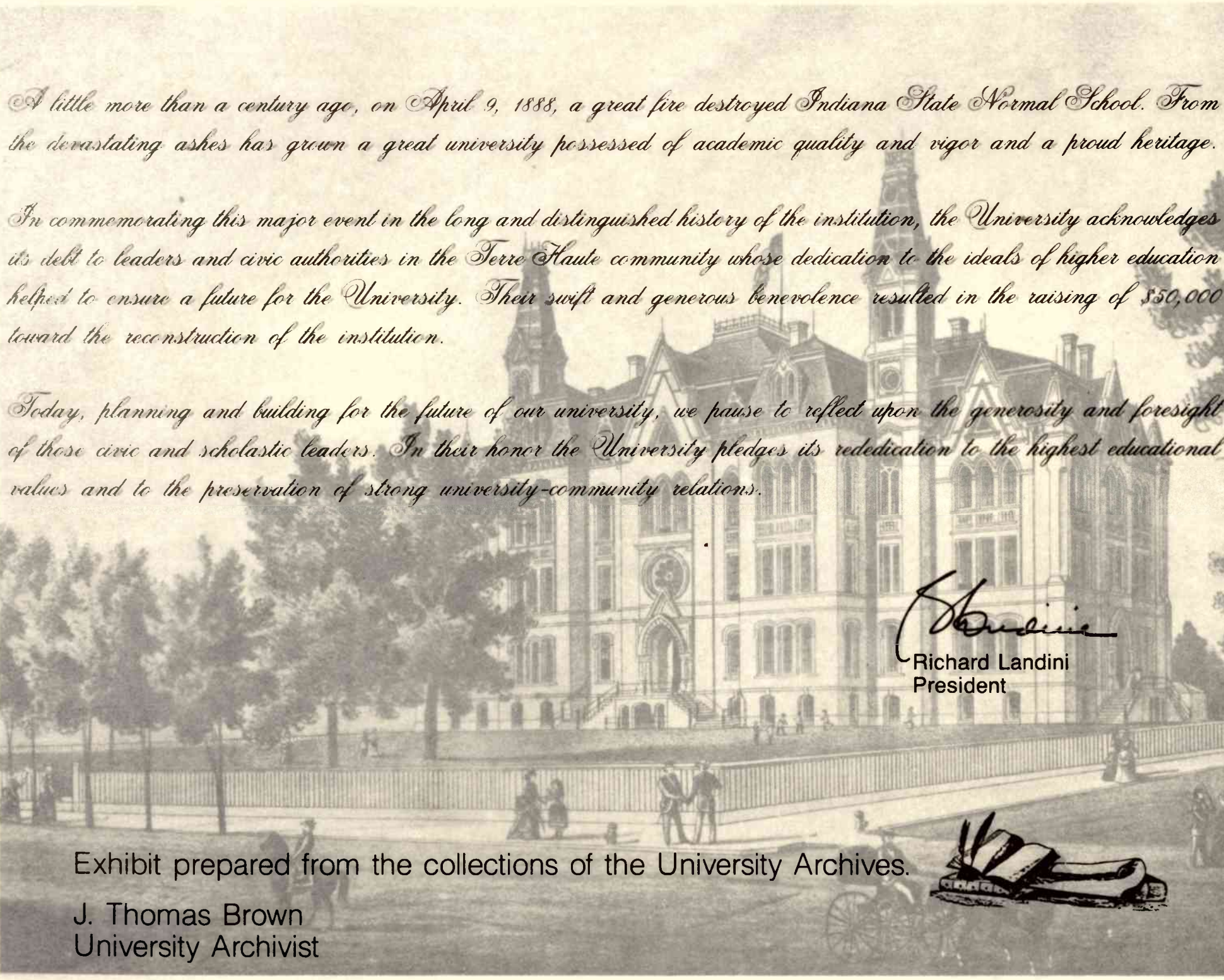
INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

From the Ashes: Heart...Spirit...Opportunity

A little more than a century ago, on April 9, 1888, a great fire destroyed Indiana State Normal School. From the devastating ashes has grown a great university possessed of academic quality and vigor and a proud heritage.

In commemorating this major event in the long and distinguished history of the institution, the University acknowledges its debt to leaders and civic authorities in the Terre Haute community whose dedication to the ideals of higher education helped to ensure a future for the University. Their swift and generous benevolence resulted in the raising of \$50,000 toward the reconstruction of the institution.

Today, planning and building for the future of our university, we pause to reflect upon the generosity and foresight of those civic and scholastic leaders. In their honor the University pledges its rededication to the highest educational values and to the preservation of strong university-community relations.



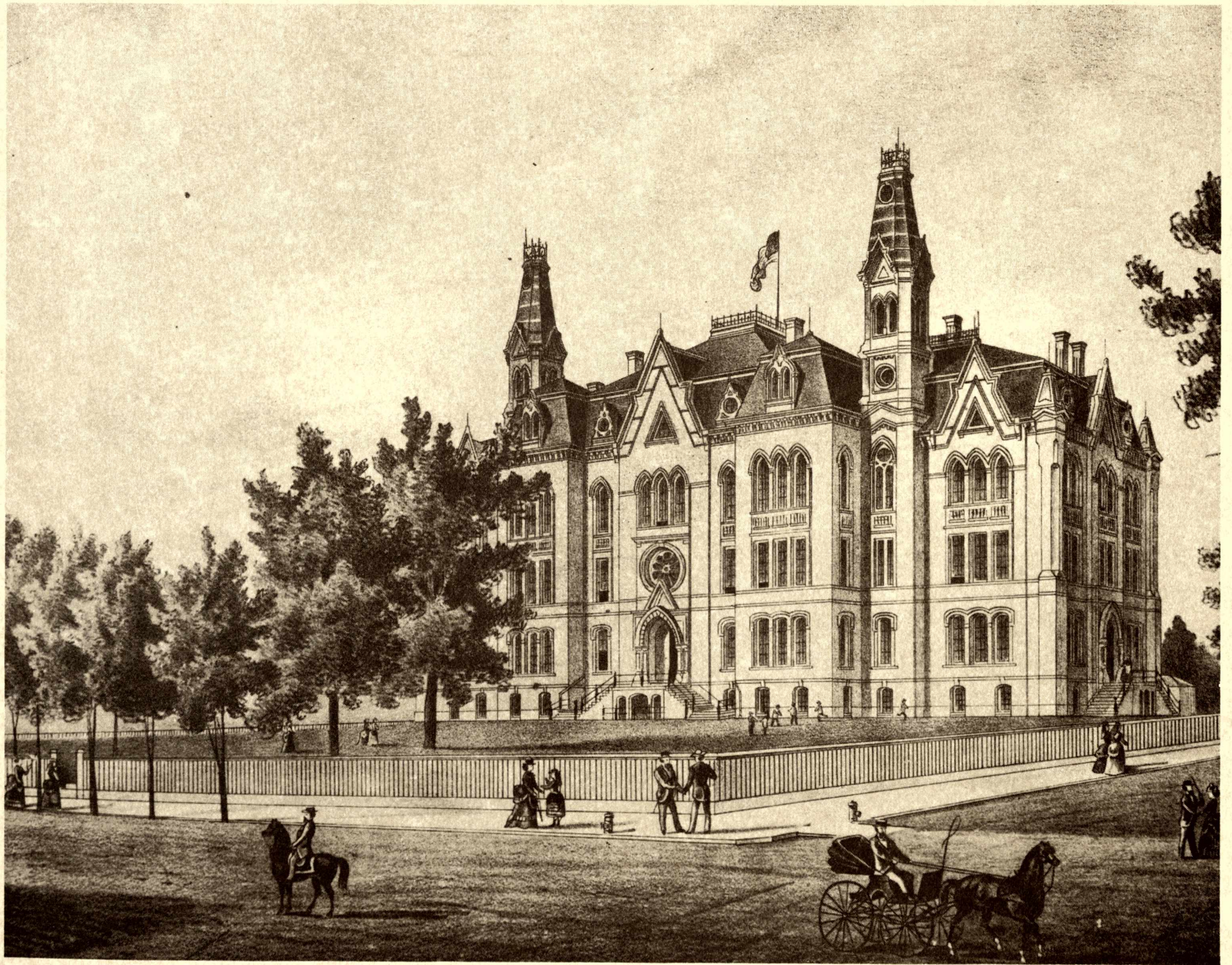
Richard Landini

Richard Landini
President

Exhibit prepared from the collections of the University Archives.

J. Thomas Brown
University Archivist





THE INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, 1870

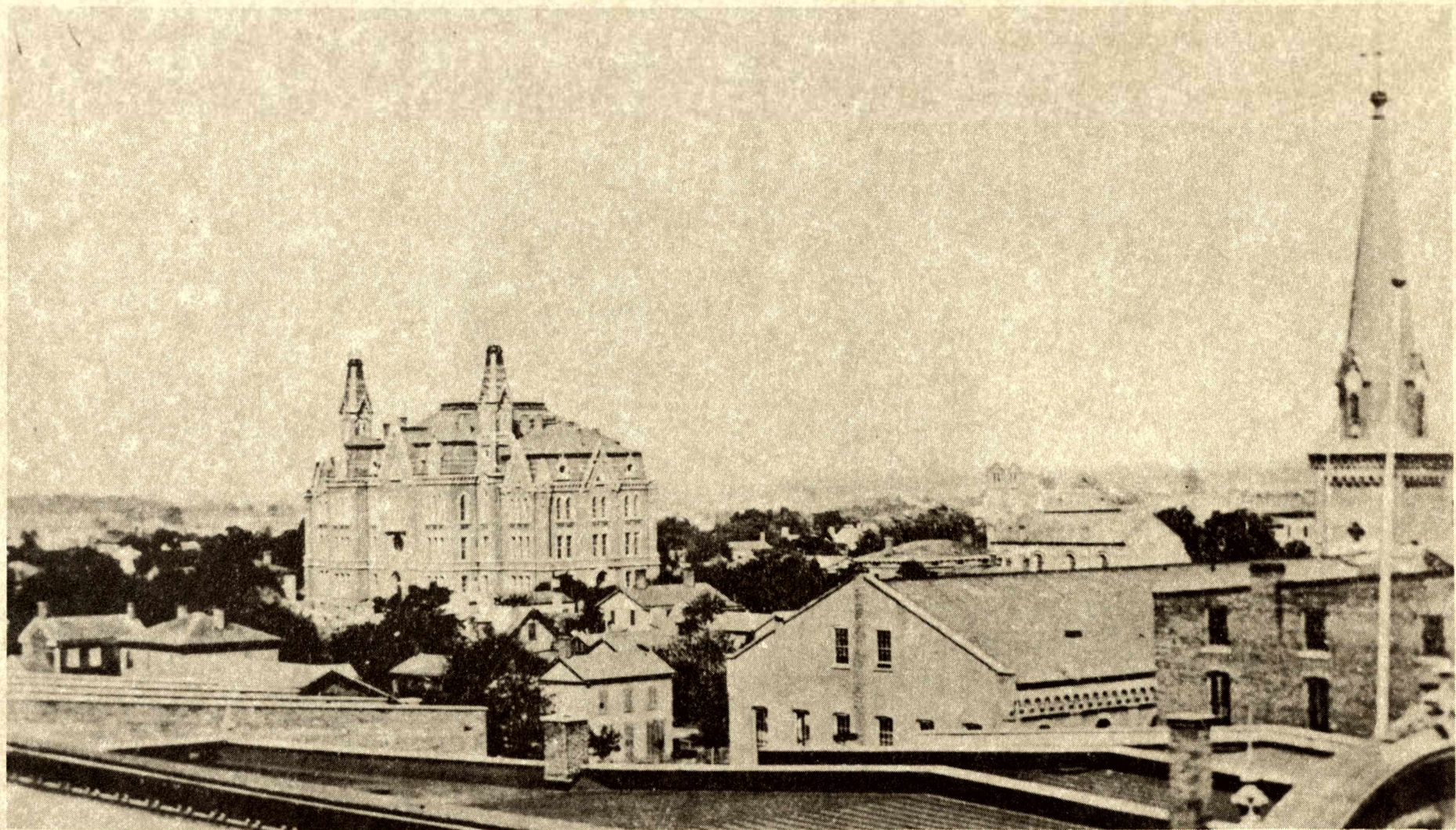
The cornerstone was laid August 13th, 1867. It was one of the greatest days in the history of Terre Haute. There was a universal outpouring of the people. The entire square was a moving mass of people.

TERRE HAUTE EVENING GAZETTE
—September 21, 1889—

The building has a frontage of 195 feet to a depth of 115 feet. The plan is irregular in form, although balanced in two equal parts. It is composed of a basement, 11 feet in the clear, and three stories, 16 feet in the clear each, except the lecture-room, museum and library in the third story, which are 22 feet in the clear.

The basement floor is only three feet below the surface of the ground, and affords clear rooms for a gymnasium, 60 x 70 feet, a lecture room on chemistry, 22 x 30 feet, a laboratory, 20 x 22 feet 6 inches, play rooms for primary pupils, janitor-rooms, water-closet and urinals, and all the necessary fuel and heating apparatus rooms. A long hall, running north and south gives access to these various rooms. The entrance to the basement is effected through five doors from the exterior, and it is connected with the upper stories by means of four stairs.

A double flight of limestone steps to the west gives access to the front hall, 14 feet in width, and from this is entered the reception room, 17 x 20 feet and the secretary's room, 17 x 20 feet. A double flight of stairs display to the right and to the left, conducting to the second story. This front hall intersects the long hall. The latter is entered from the south and the north ends by double flights of limestone steps. These three entrances to the building are closed with heavy night doors, and fly doors in daytime.



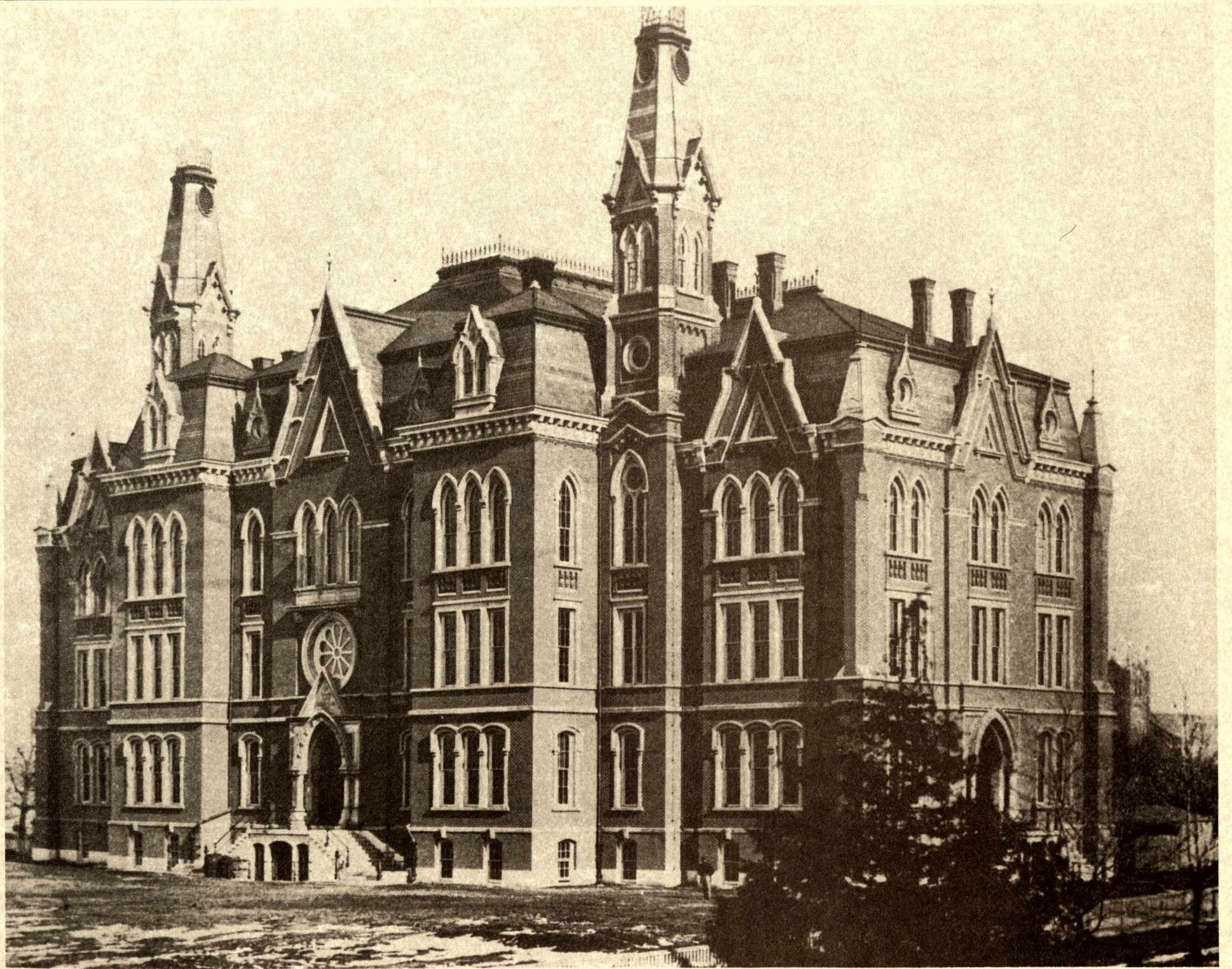
At the intersection of the halls, and east of the long hall, are the high school session room, 60 x 70 feet; the two main stairs from the basement up to the third story; the two reference libraries 13 x 13 feet, and four recitation-rooms, 20 x 22 feet 6 inches long. To the west of the long hall, north end, are the intermediate school rooms, 22 feet 6 inches by 30 feet and 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet; and to the south end are primary school-rooms, 22 feet 6 inches by 30 feet and 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet, and four dress-rooms, all accessible from the long hall.

The second story is particularly devoted to the Normal School Department, and is reached by four large and commodious flights of stairs. The assembly-room is 60 x 70 feet and the eight recitation-rooms vary from 20 x 22 feet 6 inches to 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet, with two reference libraries, and all dress-rooms necessary for pupils and teachers. In this story the central wheel window of the front throws a flood of light of the most agreeable effect.

The third story is grand in combination; a lecture-room, 70 x 85 feet, and three rooms, from 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet to 22 feet 6 inches by 50 feet, arranged for museum and library, may be thrown open into one vast assembly-room when occasion will require it. This story has, besides, two society halls, 22 feet 6 inches by 40 feet, and music halls, 22 x 30 feet.

The towers and minarets which ornament the appearance are all ventilating shafts. The building is temporarily heated with stoves, but has been arranged for low-pressure steam apparatus. The entire cost of the edifice, closets, heating apparatus, furniture of the most approved design, and one thousand feet of substantial wrought-iron and limestone fence is \$230,000. The style of the building as the picture (from a photograph) shows, is imposing and bold. The State of Indiana has, without a doubt, surpassed all other States of the Union in the institutions of the kind.

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER
—February 5, 1870, pp. 357-358—



APRIL 9, 1888: THE FIRE

The most unfortunate single catastrophe that could happen to Terre Haute occurred this morning, when the fine State Normal School, an institution in which not only the people of Terre Haute but those from all parts of the state have taken just pride was destroyed by fire and nothing left to tell the short but fearful story of ruin by the fierce flames but the bare and blackened walls.

TERRE HAUTE EVENING GAZETTE
—April 9, 1888—

A calamity has befallen Terre Haute, but not one from which she will be a long time recovering. The State Normal School, pointed to with pride as the greatest institution of learning in the state, burned to the ground yesterday morning, and now but the broken walls are standing.

TERRE HAUTE EXPRESS
—April 10, 1888—

It was a costly exhibition but it was a glorious fire regarded as a spectacle. There never was a handsomer fire in Terre Haute or one which could be viewed so satisfactorily. Sitting apart and on a hill with a wide space surrounding it for the witnesses to view the spectacle of destruction, the stately edifice never looked so beautiful as it did with a halo of flame about its lordly crest. Let us give the Devil his dues. It was a superb fire, as a fire, and make no mistake.

TERRE HAUTE WEEKLY GAZETTE
—April 12, 1888—

Not one cent of insurance was carried on the building or upon any of its contents. The city and the state jointly erected the building, the city donating the ground and \$50,000.00, and the two have quarreled over the question as to whose duty it was to insure it, the building all the time being left unprotected, till at last, like the virgin who was without oil in her lamp, we have lived to repent our folly.

TERRE HAUTE EVENING GAZETTE
—April 9, 1888—



THE COMMITMENT OF TERRE HAUTE

Resolved, That the thanks of this board be tendered to the trustees of Centenary Church, Rose Polytechnic Institute, the Baptist, Christian and Congregational churches and the Phoenix Foundry, and to the trustees of the city schools for their several very generous offers of rooms for the temporary use of the Normal School, and that President Parsons and the faculty be requested to report to the board what rooms tendered would be best suited for the purpose.

—resolution introduced and adopted by State Normal School Board of Trustees, Terre Haute House parlor, April 9, 1888

The general talk about town is that we must have the building put up again, and that immediately at almost any cost to the city.

“Will we lose the school?” was asked of Mr. Joseph Gilbert.

“No, I think not; if something active is down. We want to look at it this way. The school is going on the same as ever. We have had a building burn down on us, and we are simply going to rebuild it before the legislature meets and then we are sure of it.”

In reply to the reporter's question President Parson's said: “In my opinion the state owes it to Terre Haute to rebuild here. The city has assisted in every step made to improve the school, and has helped make it the great institution that it is. If we are dormant in the matter, we will no doubt lose it, but if it is taken right up, and the building is erected by next fall, the legislature will undoubtedly make an appropriation for the city.”

TERRE HAUTE EXPRESS

—April 10, 1888—

The thought uppermost in all minds was rebuilding. The despondent fear of Monday that the city would lose the institution had been succeeded by a determination that such a thing should not be, no matter at what cost to the city.

The citizens committee met in President McKeen's office at 2:00 p.m. with all members presents.

TERRE HAUTE EXPRESS

—April 11, 1888—

To The Board of Trustees of the State Normal School of Indiana
Terre Haute,

The undersigned a Commissioner of the citizens of Terre Haute appointed at a regular meeting of the citizens to consider the question of immediately commencing the repair of the Normal building injured by fire yesterday. Submit the following for your consideration -

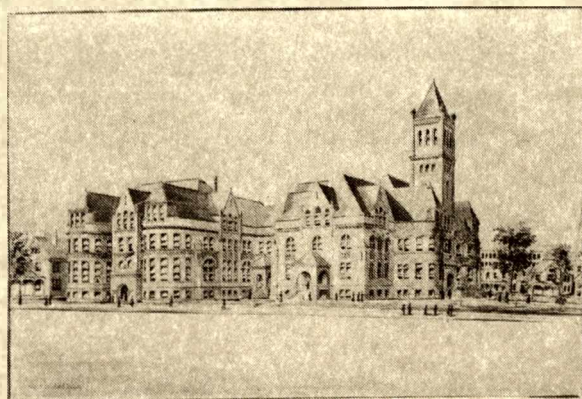
We have assumed that in the contract of the city with the state that the city is obliged to pay for one half of the repairs on said building and it is the desire of all to have the building repaired at an early day -

Therefore, in behalf of the city we propose that if you will as soon as practicable procure a careful estimate of the cost of putting the building in repair in such manner and style ^{as you may determine} as the present walls as far as prudent in order to enable you to commence repairs at once. The city will furnish the half of the cost of

said repairs so the work can begin at an early day. The intention being for the city to furnish his half of the cost at once while for the other half of the cost you will wait till an appropriation is made before you can start that part.

By going to work this spring it will hasten the completion of the repairs by a year.
Respectfully &c

J. R. McKim
J. C. Mendenhall
R. S. Tenant
Jacob Kolsem
R. S. Tenant
J. R. McKim



Mr. J. C. Kolsem, Mayor, and A. C. Duddleston, Clerk, of the City of Terre Haute, Vigo County, State of Indiana, do hereby certify that the following is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Common Council of said City at a regular meeting thereof held Tuesday evening, April 17, 1888, and recorded on page 224, Volume 11, of the council records:

Whereas, By an act of the Legislature of March 8, 1867, and the contract made in accordance therewith, the City of Terre Haute is liable to forever maintain and keep up one-half of the necessary repairs incident to keeping in proper order the building or buildings and the grounds of the State Normal School, and

Whereas, It is estimated that not less than \$50,000 will be required to repair the injuries done to the Normal School building by the late fire, therefore

Resolved That the sum of Twenty-five thousand dollars be placed at the disposal of the Board of City School Trustees to be used by them in connection with the Board of Normal School Trustees for the purpose of repairing the Normal School building, and the City Clerk is hereby instructed and empowered to draw his warrants on the City Treasurer in favor of the Board of City School Trustees at such times and in such sums as may be required by said Board for said purpose.

Witness our hands and the seal of the City of Terre Haute, Vigo County, State of Indiana, this 9th day of May, 1888.

J. R. McKim Mayor
A. C. Duddleston, City Clerk

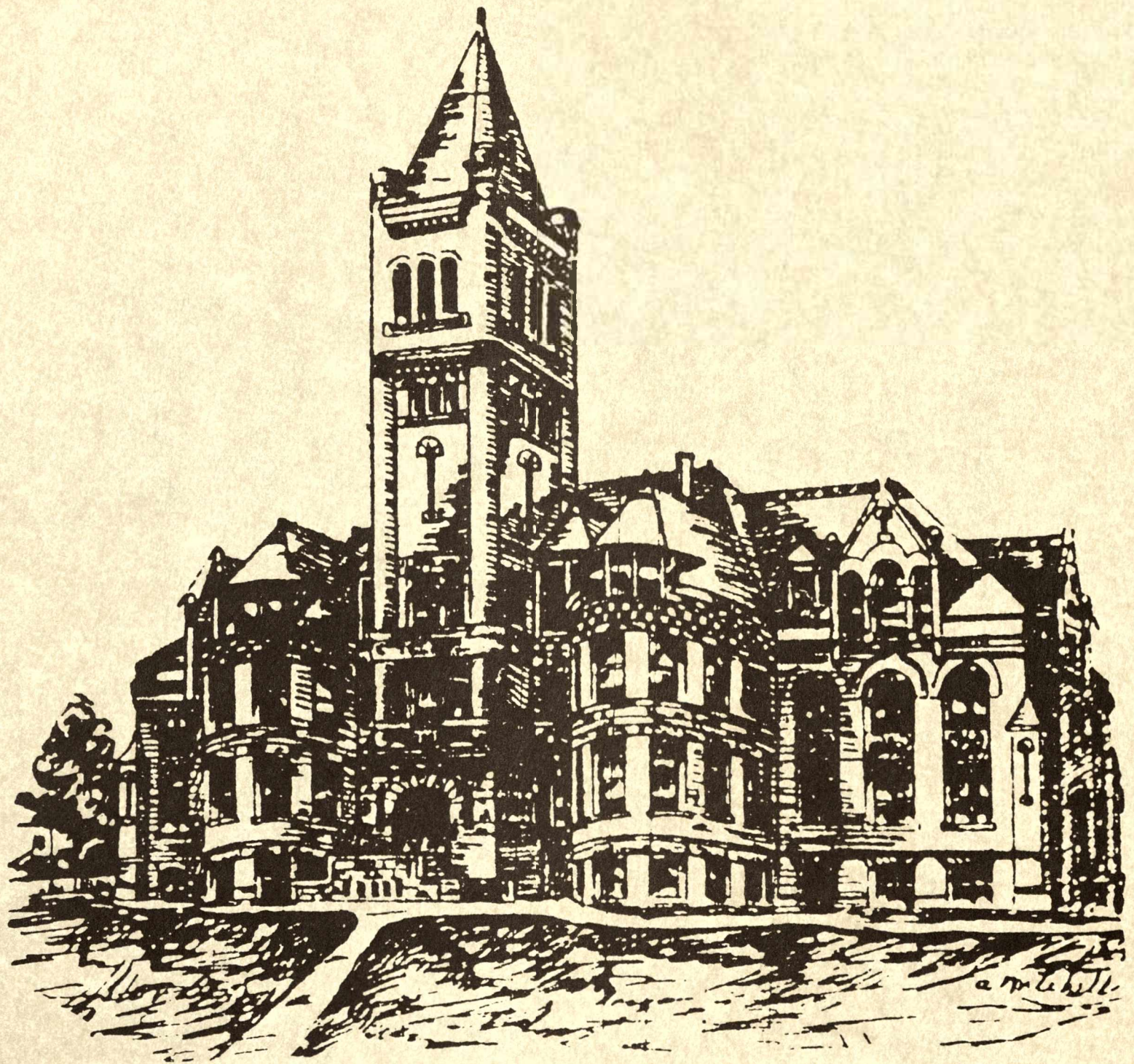
RECONSTRUCTION: INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, 1888

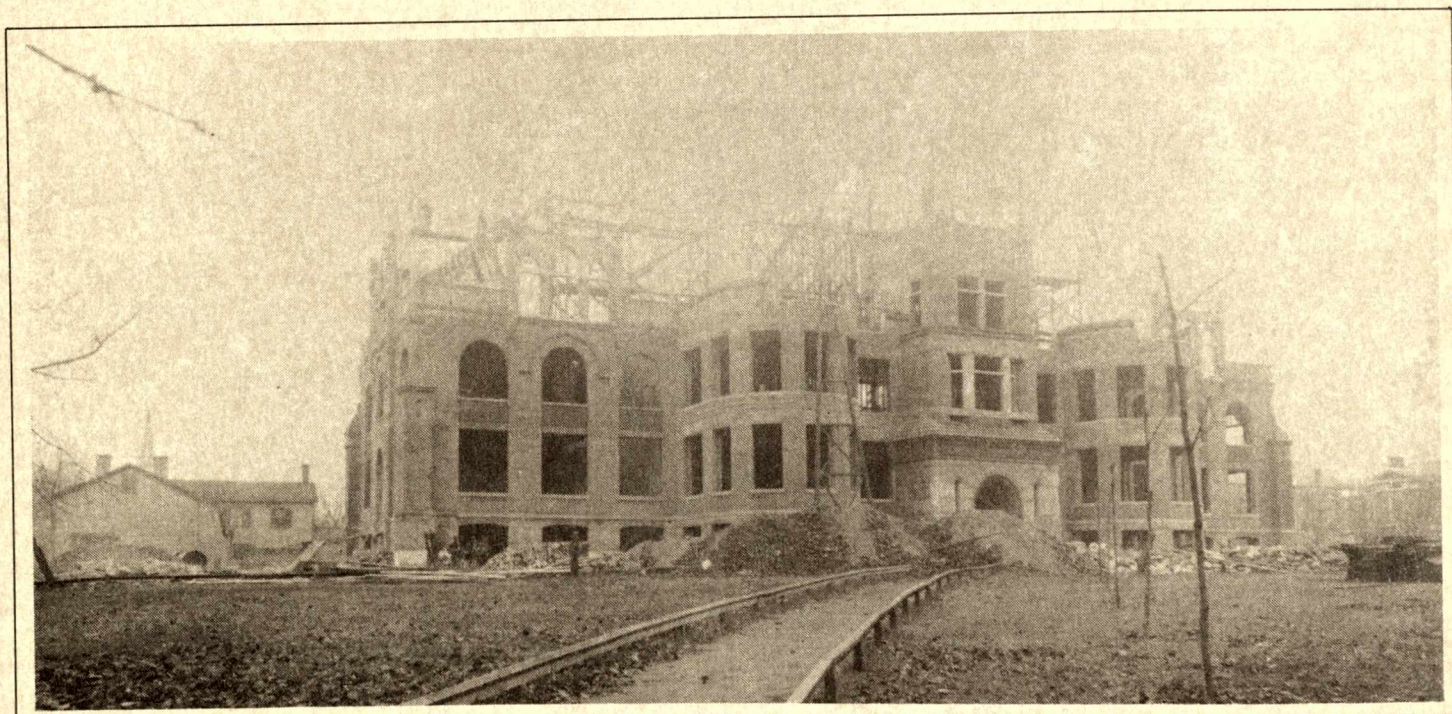
The State Normal Board was in session yesterday afternoon with all the members present. The plans submitted by architects Jenny & Otis of Chicago, Gaddis of Vincennes, and Vrydagh & Son of this city were considered, but no action was taken.

Mr. Jenny's plans showed a wide departure from the original design of the building and the light airy appearance of the former building was changed into a heavy massive looking structure.

From the main entrance on the west runs a heavy tower straight up the front of the building. The Ls to either side of this are extended eight feet further west and made round instead of square as before. The half circular form is retained to the top of the building and the roof built in that form. The plan shows the building highest in the centre and gradually dropping off towards the ends.

TERRE HAUTE GAZETTE
—April 18, 1888—







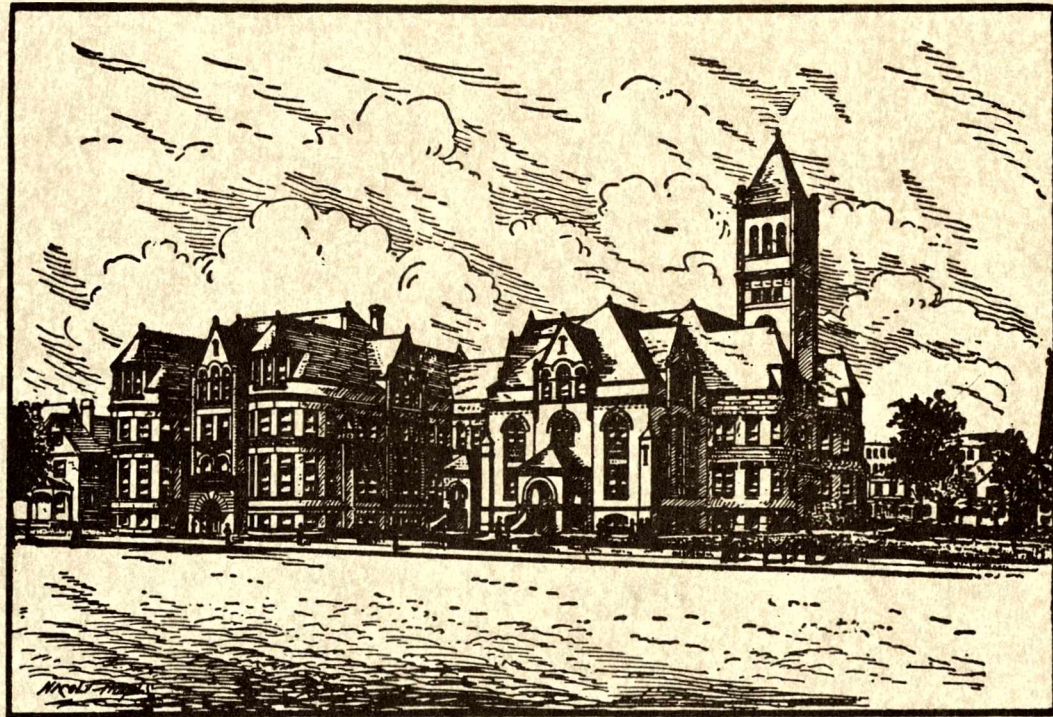
A COMPACT CAMPUS

The initial phase of growth for the Indiana State Normal School produced two structures, the North Hall addition in 1895 and the Training School in 1905. The buildings were erected on the lot adjacent to the Main building at either end. Both structures were architecturally compatible with the original building.

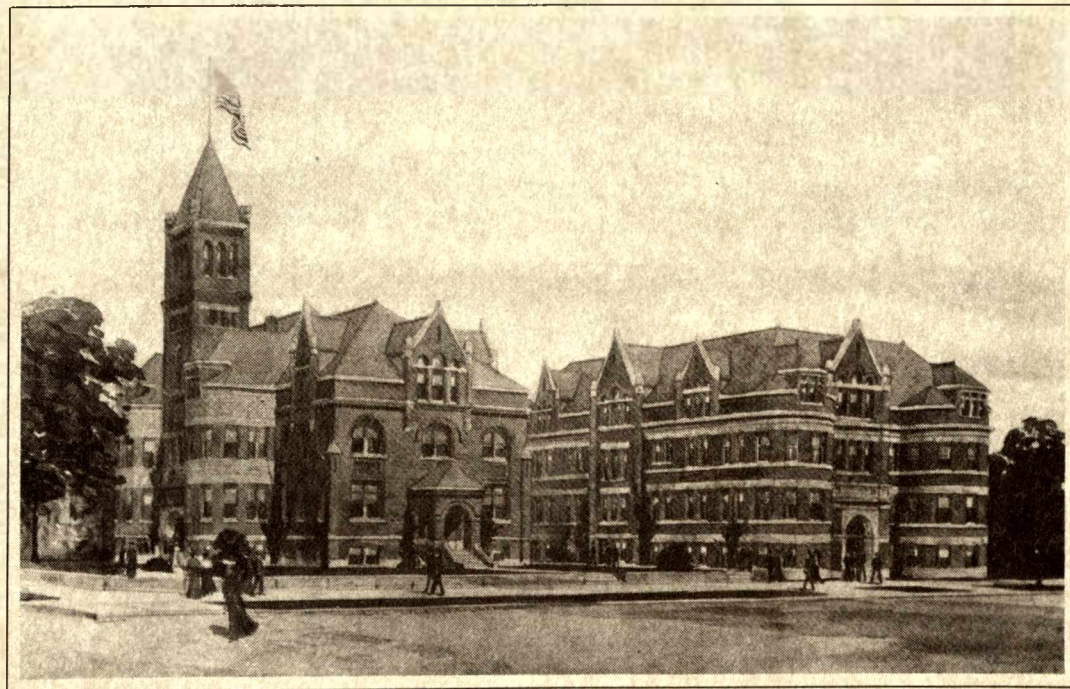
The North Hall addition was specifically designed to house the school's gymnasium facilities for men and women, a library facility, and science laboratories.

The Training School consolidated all phases of teacher training for primary and intermediate grades and high school in one structure. For its time, it was considered one of the best model training schools in the country.

North Hall Addition, 1895



Training School, 1905





LIBRARY BUILDING

MAIN BUILDING

TRAINING SCHOOL BUILDING

INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

ADDRESS OF
PRESIDENT WILLIAM WOOD PARSONS
TO THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY

INDIANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL MEETING IN
CENTENARY CHURCH
APRIL 10, 1888

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Normal School: It gives me new heart and new spirit to see you all here. It proves clearly what we all knew and what everyone should know, that the Normal School and the Normal School building are two separate and distinct things. Our building is in ashes, our library, laboratory and apparatus are all gone, but the school and all essential to it are here this morning. This is a splendid opportunity to teach the world that the school is not its library and buildings. The Normal School is in existence this morning and we are ready to go to work. I am sure the world will forgive the loss of yesterday but not today and we must go on as before. I want you who represent almost every section of the state, to help spread the sentiment, that notwithstanding the loss of our building we will go on with the good work.

More room and the use of more buildings have been offered to use, far more indeed than we needed. I think that within ten days we will be able to assemble in the second story of the high school. Some of you have lost your books. This is a good chance to show that you can study without books. We can study the subject without the aid of books.

TERRE HAUTE EVENING GAZETTE
—April 10, 1888—